

PATENT

PAT-002

REMARKS

The applicants have reviewed the Final Action mailed on 15 November 2004 and the art cited therein, and submit this paper as a reply thereto. The applicants request entry of the above
5 claim revisions and consideration of these comments.

Preliminary Matters

The applicants submitted two information disclosure statements (IDSs), one on 16 August 2004 and another on 24 September 2004, but have not received an initialized PTO-1449 form indicating that the art listed thereon has been considered. The applicants request
10 consideration of the two IDSs at the earliest convenience of the Office. If these IDSs have not been entered into the file, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Art-Based Rejections

Independent claim 1 stands rejected under § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hurd, and alternatively, under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uppaluru in view of the McDysan
15 reference. Solely to expedite the prosecution of this application, the applicants have amended claim 1 as indicated above. At least some of the various features added to claim 1 were recited previously in other claims, but are now added in combination to claim 1. Thus, these features are believed fully supported under § 112, 1st paragraph, by the originally-filed specification. More particularly, the hours of operation and capital allocation features recited in claim 1 are believed
20 supported at least from page 7, line 15 through page 9, line 8, while the additional connectivity members are believed fully supported at least by Figures 3 and 4 and the related discussion from page 19, line 10 through page 22, line 8.

Claims 23-42 are cancelled solely to expedite prosecution of this application, and without waiver, prejudice, or disclaimer of the applicants' rights to direct claims to this subject matter in
25 the future.

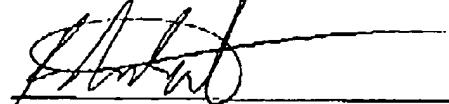
The applicants request entry, consideration, and favorable action on this response at the earliest convenience of the Office.

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Respectfully submitted,

WEST CORPORATION

Rocco L. Adornato
Reg. No. 40,4805 Dated: 13 JAN 05

By:



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